

EXAMINATION Of LKT'/'KIW.

1IW

province of Lauenburg. There the courier From Berlin was stopped, and his packets and letters opened. As soon as these facts were known in Hamburg there was a general consternation among the trading class — that is to say, the influential population of the city. Important and well-grounded complaints were made. Some letters had been suppressed, enclosures had been taken from one letter and put into another, and several bills of exchange had gone astray. The intelligence soon reached the ears of the Prince of Ponte-Corvo, and was confirmed by the official report of the commissioner for the Imperial and Royal Post-office, who complained of the delay of the courier, of the confusion of the packets, and of want of confidence in the Imperial Post-office. It was impolitic to place such agents in a village where there was not even a post-office, and where the letters were opened in an inn without any supervision. This examination of the letters, sometimes, perhaps, necessary, but often dangerous, and always extremely delicate, created additional alarm on account of the persons to whom the business was intrusted. If the Emperor wished to be made acquainted with the correspondence of certain persons in the north it would have been natural to intrust the business to his agents and his commissioner at Hamburg, and not to two unknown individuals — another inconvenience attending *hluck nr/thit'.tti*. At my suggestion the Prince of Ponte-Uorvo gave orders for putting a stop to the clandestine business at Kschlwrgr. The two agents were taken to Hamburg and their conduct inquired into. They were severely punished. They deserved this, however, less than those who had intrusted them with such an *hunurthft** mission; but leaders never make much scruple about abandoning their accomplices in the lower ranks.

But for the pain of witnessing vexations of this sort, which I had not always power to prevent, especially after Bernadotte's removal, my residence at Hamburg would have been delightful. Those who have visited that town know the advantages it possesses from its charming situation on the Elbe, and above all, the delightful country which surrounds it like a garden, and extends to the distance of more than a